

## **Fire Fatalities**

The number of reported fire deaths increases during cold months. These deaths primarily occur in the home. Home heating is one of the leading causes. Preventative measures listed below can reduce risk:

### **Fireplaces and woodstoves:**

- Have your chimney and related equipment professionally inspected annually. Clean chimney as often as the inspections indicate.
- Keep fireplaces and woodstoves clean.
- Maintain area near fireplaces and woodstoves free from combustible materials.
- Never use flammable liquids to start fires.
- Never leave a burning fire unattended.
- Do not burn soft, wet wood, cardboard or trash in your fireplace or woodstove. This practice accelerates creosote build-up.
- Hot ashes should be removed in a metal can, soaked with water and placed outside your home.
- Do not close chimney dampers with hot ashes in the fireplace or woodstove.

### **Space Heaters:**

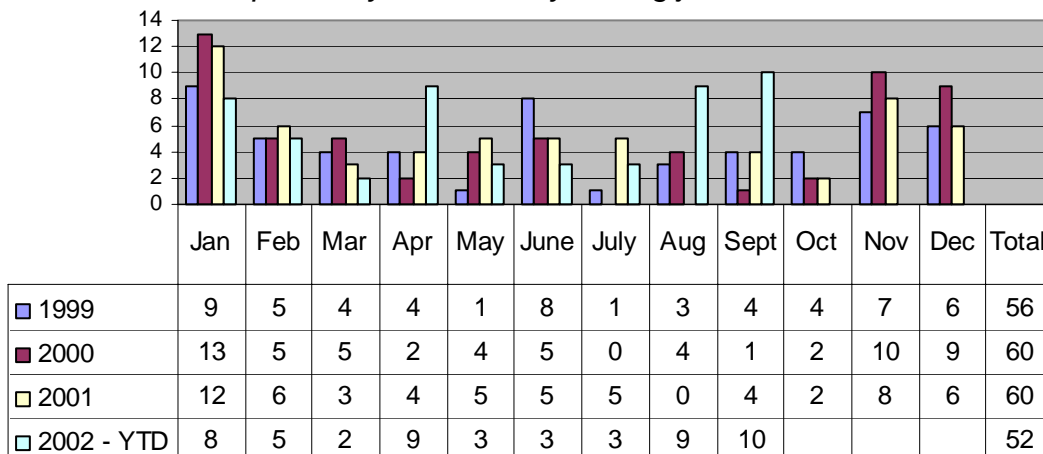
- Purchase space heaters with marking from a national recognized testing laboratory. Choose a heater with automatic shut off features.
- Follow all manufactures instructions and maintenance schedules.
- Place on a solid surface, out of traffic areas.
- Maintain 3 feet of clearance from all combustibles including curtains, chairs and walls.
- Use only the appropriate fuel as called for by manufactures instructions.
- Do not use extension cords in conjunction with space heaters.
- Fuel burning heaters should only be used in well ventilated areas.

### **Furnaces:**

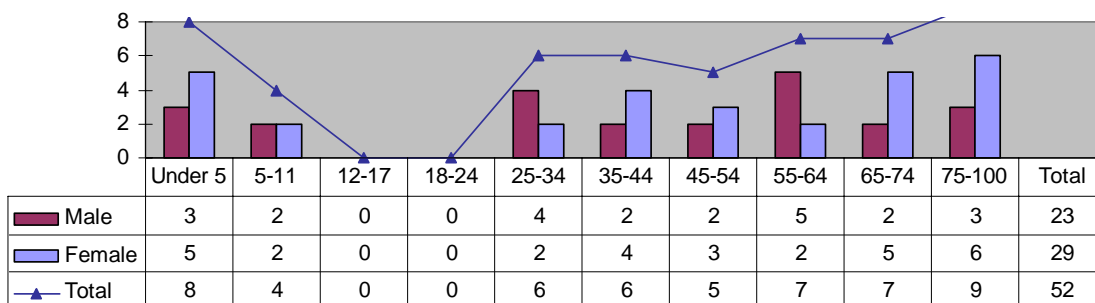
- Ensure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working order.
- Repairs should be done by a qualified professional.
- Follow manufactures recommended maintenance schedules.
- Inspect flue pipe and pipe seams.
- Keep all combustibles away from heating unit.

## **Fire Fatalities by Month**

*reported by the authority having jurisdiction*



### Fire Fatalities by Age and Gender



Carelessness with smoking materials is the leading cause of fire deaths. Deaths resulting from smoking can be prevented by following these life safety tips:

- Never smoke in bed or while drowsy.
- Extinguish smoking materials in a non-combustible ashtray.
- Keep ashtrays off combustible furnishings such as
- Empty ashtrays into a metal can or toilet.
- Never leave cigarettes, cigars or other smoking materials unattended.
- Do not smoke while using medically prescribed oxygen.
- Discard partially smoked cigarettes or cigars. Do not place in pockets of clothing or back in original package.

### 2002 Fire Causes

*as reported by the authority having jurisdiction*

